

Grading Rubric (TDDD89)

	Introduction	Background + Related Work (Theory)	Method (and Plan)	Organization	Language and form
RED - Not approved for passing TDDD89, significant work needed	The research questions are mostly related to learning about a subject area.	Peer-reviewed scientific references are lacking. The references only describe techniques to be used, not any theoretical framework for interpreting results or conducting a study.	The method description is not connected to the research questions, or lacks vital information. The chosen method will not provide answers to the research questions. <i>The project plan and analyzed risks are generic (might apply to any thesis project).</i>	The report lacks a clear and logical development of ideas and lacks clear transitions between concepts or sections of the report. The material presented is irrelevant to the thesis.	The text contains errors of spelling or grammar that make it difficult to understand the message that the writer intended to communicate. There are figures, tables or code examples that are difficult to read, that are not referenced or that have been plagiarized from other sources.
ORANGE - Not approved for passing TDDD89, needs extensions or revisions for a passing grade	The research questions are vague, difficult to answer clearly, generally limited or uninteresting.	Certain scientific sources exist, but they do not cover the areas necessary for the specific thesis work and are not carefully chosen (too specific to be of general use or vice versa) and are not formatted so that their origin and character become clear.	The method description does not refer to methods employed in previous, similar studies, or lacks certain parts that would be necessary to convince the reader that the research questions can be answered, or is aimed at assessing something more general or specific than stated in the research questions. <i>Tasks, milestones and risks in the project plan are superficially described or partly missing. Dependences are unclear.</i>	Some necessary material is presented in logical sections, but the report does not contain a logical development of ideas.	The text is generally free of spelling and major grammatical errors, and errors which occur do not impede communication. A good attempt has been made to write in a style and register that is generally appropriate to the genre. Some linking expressions have been used to facilitate the flow from one idea to another and the text is generally coherent. The report is relatively easy to read although overlong sentences, unclear references and unexplained terms may occur.
YELLOW - Approved for an extended thesis plan in TDDD89 but not for a final thesis	The presentation of the problem is clearly formulated, demarcated and realistic. The problem is of some general interest. The research questions may be possible to answer, but need to be connected to specific methods used in the literature to produce sensible answers. Scientifically somewhat interesting and independently formulated research questions.	Earlier work in the area is described with the use of at least [four/seven] relevant peer-reviewed scientific references. Sources cover many but not all of the central aspects of the thesis. References are sometimes used carelessly, and some references are indirect ("X produces a good overview of Y [ref X]").	The method description refers to earlier peer-reviewed scientific studies that have used similar methods. The description makes some reproduction possible, but omits some details on evaluations, such as which specific instruments are to be used, or how the suggested method is related to the context given. <i>The project plan is clear and matches the chosen method; it identifies relevant project-specific tasks and milestones with clear dependences, and analyzes plausible project-specific risks.</i>	The report has a mostly logical development of ideas, the research questions are motivated adequately and the material presented is specific to the thesis topic.	The text contains almost no errors of spelling or grammar and the style and register of the language used is appropriate to the genre. Linking expressions are used to provide a clear flow from one idea to another and statements are generally unambiguous. The report is easy to read, has a good structure, clear references and most terms are sufficiently explained. Figures and tables have been carefully selected; their use throughout the report is satisfactory.
GREEN - Approved for an extended thesis plan in TDDD89 and for the first part of a Master's thesis draft, but may need additional work before publication as part of a thesis	The introduction piques the reader's interest and demonstrates the importance of the problem from a wider perspective. The research questions are reasonable to answer within the time frame of the thesis project and adequately formulated to guide the choice of method when answering them.	Previous research and development are described in detail, which gives the reader confidence that the author is well acquainted with the subject area. At least [seven/ten] carefully selected peer-reviewed scientific references are used to support claims. The presentation of related research is written so that it reflects independent critical thinking and an ability to systematically evaluate and analyze complex information. Alternative methods are considered. There are scientific references for both the theoretical framework as well as the method for the study, and there are valid secondary sources (review papers, books) as well as primary sources (scientific papers with specific results). Sources are used consistently and correctly according to a template for reference management.	The method description is written based on earlier works in the area, justified by the current context and clearly related to the research questions. The choice of method is justified in relation to alternative methods in a way that indicates good methodological awareness. <i>The project plan is thorough and clear, and is likely to successfully implement the chosen method; it identifies relevant project-specific tasks and milestones with clear dependences, and analyzes plausible project-specific risks.</i>	The report reads fluently as a research paper, with a lucid, thorough development of the hypothesis, topics and sub-topics, arguments and counter-arguments throughout. There is a good balance between presentation of studied material and elaborations of own thoughts and ideas.	The text contains no major errors of spelling or grammar, and the style and register of the language used is appropriate to the genre. Suitable linking expressions provide a clear flow from one idea to another and statements are unambiguous. The report is easy to read, has a good structure, clear references and all terms are sufficiently explained. Figures and tables are used in a satisfactory manner. They have been carefully selected, are clearly and concisely described and have suitable, descriptive legends.

[Requirement for extended thesis plans / requirement for final theses]